

Denis Roach House
Minersville Neighborhood
215-17 Honan Avenue
Johnstown
Cambria County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5778

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

DENIS ROACH HOUSE

HABS No. PA-5778

Location: 215-17 Honan Avenue, Minersville, Johnstown, Cambria County, Pa.

Description: Large double house. Two stories over a full basement, measuring 30' x 25'. Wood-frame structure with horizontal wood siding. Prominent stone foundation. Side-gable roof with the eaves supported on large wooden brackets. Flat-headed architraved windows throughout. Shed-roofed front porch at first-floor level. The porch is supported on wooden posts at basement level. There are entrances to the dwellings in the basement and first floor.

History: This house was built in about 1885. Denis Roach acquired the lot from Benjamin Benshoff in that year for \$4. Also in 1885, Roach was assessed for one house. No. 217 Honan Ave. is depicted on the 1895 Sanborn map. By that year the street names and addresses of Minersville had changed. In the city directory for 1895 Denis Roach is listed a steel worker living at this address. The 1900 census records that Roach was 46 years old, Irish, and that he came to America in 1877. He was married and had five children.

In 1900, Roach rented no. 215 to John Conaway, who was 29 years old, Irish, a laborer in the beam mill, and had been in America 26 years. He was married with two children.

In 1925 Catherine Roach sold the property to Michael Ondrejik for \$2,650. The property is still in the hands of the Ondrejik family.

Sources:

Deed Records (53:716, 392:253, 1118:157), Cambria County Courthouse, Ebensburg, Pa.

Johnstown City Directories, 1887, 1889, 1891, 1893, 1895, 1899, 1903.

Sanborn Map Company, Johnstown, Pennsylvania (New York, The Sanborn Map Co., 1895).

Tax assessment records, Minersville, 1870, 1871, 1875. Tax assessment card, assessment no. 84-002-104.000, Cambria County Courthouse, Ebensburg, Pa.

United States Census, Cambria County, Pa., City of Johnstown, 14th Ward, 1900.

Project Information: This report was part of a larger project to document the city of Johnstown, Pennsylvania. The project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), Robert Kapsch, chief, at the request of America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP). An overview of history of the city (HABS No. PA-5669) and an overview of the neighborhoods of Cambria City and Minersville (HABS No. PA-5672) provide context for these buildings as well as a comprehensive list of sources. See also additional HABS reports on buildings in the downtown and other neighborhoods.

This report was prepared by Bernadette Goslin in August 1988 under the direction of Alison K. Hoagland, HABS historian, and Kim E. Wallace, the supervisory historian of the project. Goslin's and other project historians' work was published as The Character of a Steel Mill City: Four Historic Neighborhoods of Johnstown, Pennsylvania (Washington, D.C.: HABS/HAER, National Park Service, 1989), edited by Kim E. Wallace. Illustrations in the publication include large format photographs taken by HAER photographer Jet Lowe and 35 mm photographs taken by the project historians.